

SUSAN WILD
7TH DISTRICT, PENNSYLVANIA

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS
EUROPE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT
AND CYBER SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
LABOR
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR AND
PENSIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE
AND TECHNOLOGY
RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE
LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
ROOM 1027
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-6411

LEHIGH COUNTY OFFICE
504 HAMILTON ST. SUITE 3804
ALLENTOWN, PA 18101
(484) 781-6000

MONROE COUNTY OFFICE
637 MAIN ST. SUITE 316
STROUDSBURG, PA 18360
(570) 807-0333

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY OFFICE
400 NORTHAMPTON ST. SUITE 503
EASTON, PA 18042
(610) 333-1170

August 15, 2023

The Honorable Alejandra Y. Castillo
Assistant Secretary of Commerce Economic Development Administration
Herbert C. Hoover Building
1401 Constitution Ave. NW, Suite 71014
Washington, DC 20230

RE: Lehigh Valley Economic Development Corporation (LVEDC) Regional Technology and Innovation Hubs (Tech Hubs) Application

Dear Assistant Secretary Castillo:

I write today to express my support for the Lehigh Valley's application to be designated as a Tech Hub under the U.S. Economic Development Administration's Tech Hub program. The region's application is focused on 21st century communications technology and semiconductors. The Tech Hub designation will draw on and leverage the Lehigh Valley's deep roots in semiconductor design and manufacturing to achieve global competitiveness and increase national security within the coming decade. I ask for your full and fair consideration for LVEDC's application.

When I introduced the bipartisan *Regional Innovation Act* in 2021 to promote and support American technological research and innovation in places like the Greater Lehigh Valley, I envisioned incentivizing collaborative partnerships between local governments, colleges and universities, private industry, non-profits, and community organizations. My *Regional Innovation Act* was rolled into the package of bills passed into law through the bipartisan *CHIPS and Science Act* during summer of 2022. I continued to work to pass the *CHIPS and Science Act* into law, because it's by investing in making things here at home that we strengthen our economy and create good-paying jobs for American workers. The Lehigh Valley Tech Hub Consortium represents exactly the type of collaborative group articulated in this legislation.

One of the primary goals of the *CHIPS and Science Act* is to revitalize our domestic semiconductor industry to grow our workforce and help regions like ours build on their long, proud history as manufacturing powerhouses. In my work as a member of both the U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee and the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee, I have

seen the critical economic and national security necessity to bring semiconductor manufacturing back to the U.S. That's why I have remained engaged in this process, from the initial convening of the Lehigh Valley consortium's core working group to participation in every meeting of the broader consortium, meetings which have already begun to bear fruit in the form of increased collaboration and idea generation among several of our industry and community partners. These conversations have only underscored how deeply impactful EDA's investment could be for the Greater Lehigh Valley and for our national interests.

With its goal of reshoring semiconductor manufacturing and a specific focus on communications security and energy efficiency, Lehigh Valley's vision for our Tech Hub speaks directly to the overarching goals of the *CHIPS and Science Act* and addresses multiple intersecting challenges at one time: to strengthen economic and national security; to achieve global competitiveness in a targeted industry; to develop sustainable technologies that help fight climate change; to improve our STEM educational system and bring additional resources to marginalized communities traditionally left out of tech; and to create family-sustaining, good-paying careers, building an economy that works for everyone. Designation as a Tech Hub would have a catalytic effect on the Lehigh Valley's semiconductor and communications technology ecosystem and would offer a tremendous opportunity to leverage the EDA's investment to achieve many of the *CHIPS and Science Act* goals within the coming decade.

Thank you in advance for your thoughtful consideration. Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations, I also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Finally, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me or my staff at (202) 225-6411.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Susan Wild". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Susan Wild
United States Representative (PA-07)